imprints

The Newsletter of Literacy BC

National News ...

Literacy Action Day

Literacy BC was represented at **Literacy Action Day (LAD)** on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, **October 25.** Despite the pressing issues facing our federal government, it was encouraging that the more than 70 LAD delegates received a warm welcome, meeting with 80 MPs and Senators throughout the day.

The BC delegation included Wayne Cunningham, Laubach Canada; Angie Oman, a Kamloops Laubach literacy student; Ellen Szita from our Board, and Linda Mitchell and Sandy Middleton from Literacy BC staff. We had very interesting and informative meetings with The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, and Gurmant Grewal, MP Surrey Central. We also met with senior staff for The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, MP Vancouver South - Burnaby; Werner Schmidt, MP Kelowna; Keith Martin, MP Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca ; Chuck Cadman, MP Surrey North; and The Honourable Hedy Fry, MP Vancouver Centre and Secretary of State (Multiculturalism, Status of Women).

The enclosed ***Federal Literacy Facts*** from MCL provides highlights of LAD. Check out the "Parliamentary Tool kit" online at **www.literacy.ca** where you can also find MCL's pre-budget brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Both these documents can be very useful in your "Making the Case" work at the local and regional level.

...continued on page three

Literacy BC will be closed from December 24 to January 4. We will re-open on January 7, 2002.

We wish you the best for the holiday season!

IN THIS ISSUE:

...Canada Post and Cooperators Winners
...Our Annual Report
...Federal Literacy Facts
...literacy.ca
...Learning Curves

Canada Post Literacy Awards...

Event Honours Two BC Winners

Left to right, Purdy McDonald, Scotiabank Group; Larry Loyie; Frances Thorsen, Victoria READ Society.
Photo by Constance Brissenden.

The annual **Canada Post Literacy Awards** were announced on September 7.

The awards celebrate the achievements and successes of individuals and organizations and recognize their successful efforts to improve their literacy skills or help others achieve their literacy goals.

BC awards were presented in two categories, Community Leadership and Individual Achievement. The BC winners were honoured at a presentation ceremony hosted by the Harbourside Rotary Club in Victoria on September 12.

Community Leadership - Victoria READ Society

This award honours an organization where long-term achievement, innovation and organization excellence have been demonstrated. The award is sponsored by the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada.

The READ Society was founded on the belief that literacy and language are essential to a healthy community. Now approaching its 25th anniversary, READ provides programs, including adult basic skills and ESL services, for learners of all ages and offers additional support for children through its Bursary Fund.

Frances Thorsen, Executive Director, and Vicky Austin, Bursary Fund Manager accepted the award on READ's behalf. The $2000 cheque and certificate were presented by Bob Taylor, Manager of Corporate Communications, Canada Post, and Linda Mitchell, a former READ Executive Director.

Speaking on behalf of READ, Vicky says, "The award acknowledges the dedication and resolve of READ teachers, staff, board members and volunteers over the past 25 years. READ's commitment has always been to help students learn. The Certificate of Achievement is proudly displayed in the hallway at READ and the $2,000 cash award will provide tuition for a child to attend READ's KEY classes for academic achievement."

Individual Achievement - Larry Loyie of Vancouver

This Award celebrates the accomplishments of learners who have successfully overcome social or economic barriers by improving their literacy skills.

The award is sponsored by the ScotiaBank Group.

Larry's literacy journey as an older adult helped him come to

...continued on page three

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Canada Post Literacy Awards...

terms with his early experiences at a residential school. Now Larry helps other Aboriginal literacy learners by conducting writing workshops to foster individual empowerment and community development. Through going back to school, then writing a play, Ora Pro Nobis (Pray for Us) about his experiences in residential school, Larry has come to see "writing as a way of healing."

Larry has also written two other plays, one about AIDS and one about the media's relationship to First Nations people. Winning the Individual Achievement award winner has meant a lot to him, Larry says. "It shows me that once you start something, see it through — finish it."

As "Living Transitions", Larry and his partner Constance Brissenden work by invitation in communities across Canada, teaching writing as a tool for honouring the past and healing the present. Larry encourages anyone interested in a workshop to contact him at (604) 876-0880 or email: livingtraditions@telus.net.

Larry received a Certificate of Accomplishment and a new computer system. presented by Bob Taylor and Purdy McDonald, Manager of the Victoria main branch of the ScotiaBank Group.

National News ...

Literacy Action Day...

Report on Learners Action Network

by Ellen Szita

In October I flew to Ottawa as the new Literacy BC representative to the Learner Action Network for MCL. It was a new learning experience for me and turned out to be a positive one as well. I enjoyed meeting all the other learners on MCL who I found very enthusiastic toward enhancing other learners' lives.

Ellen Szita

While there Sandy Middleton and I gave a workshop about our action research project and what it involves. It went very well and we had great feedback.

Two views of LAD

It was my first experience at lobbying. I was more excited than nervous having such a great opportunity to represent the learners with government officials.

Ellen Szita

I had an awesome experience. When I was talking to the MPs in Ottawa, I felt that they were interested and listening to me and what I had to say. They seemed excited about it. Meeting with the group was great, hearing their experience, strength, and hope was amazing.

Angie Oman

Shown in Ottawa at Literacy Action Day are, left to right: Wayne Cunningham, Laubach Canada; Angie Oman, Kamloops Laubach Literacy student; the Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment.

Learner Award Winner...

The 2001 Cooperators Learner Achievement Award winner is **Margaret Daniels** of Abbotsford. The award is given yearly to a learner who has demonstrated real commitment to improving his or her reading and writing skills.

Margaret is an ABE student at the University College of the Fraser Valley.

She is enrolled in courses to upgrade her math skills, and next semester will take further studies in the social services program. Her goal is to enter the social services field to work with families with special needs children.

Margaret was "shocked and delighted at the same time" at being named winner of the Award. Through her hard work and effort, Margaret has raised her grades to a B+ from a C+.

In her award application, Margaret wrote: "I am a single mother of two special needs children. After the death of my parents when I was 14, I never attended or gave much thought to an education. However, I realized the importance of an education; to learn, grow, and expand oneself through the struggles, the successes and the failures of my children."

Her son Joshua is 14 and her daughter Raven is 12. Margaret says her children are very happy with her choice of going back to school. She says her oldest son really likes it when they do their homework together at night, and her daughter goes to school with her to see what she does.

the co-operators

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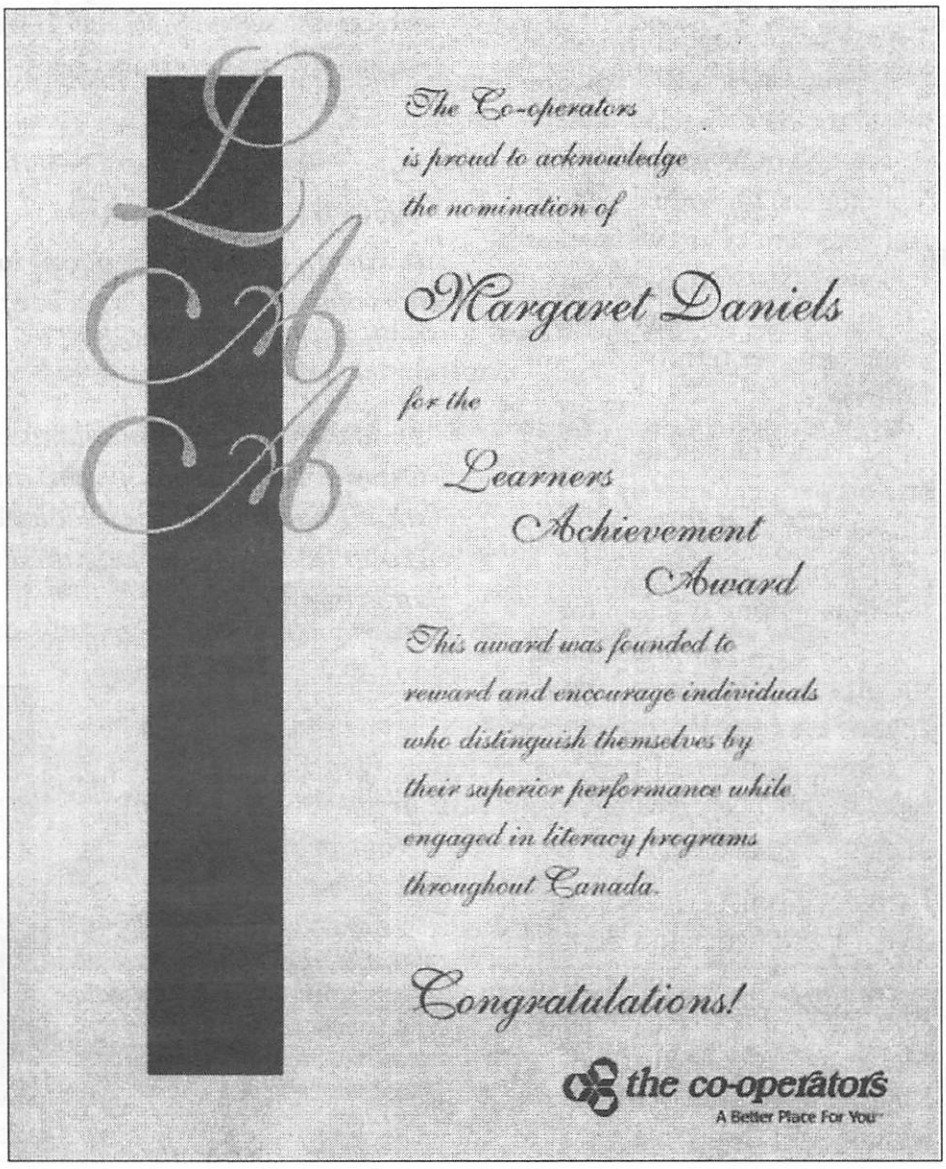


Meet the new Board for 2001/02:

On October 12 Literacy BC held its annual general meeting in Vancouver. The Annual Report for 2000/01, which highlights the past year's accomplishments, is included with this Newsletter. We were honoured to have Lianne Vardy, the Director of the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) with us as our keynote speaker. Leanne outlined the current activities related to the Federal Skills and Learning Agenda and encouraged everyone to keep working on helping to move this forward.

Following the AGM, the Literacy BC Board of Directors met to approve the workplan for the coming year and to discuss policies related to our work.

Executive Committee

President: Vicki Austad (Lower Mainland)
Vicki is currently the manager of the New Westminster Community Development Society. She is also past President of the Community Skills Centres Consortium of B.C., and the New Westminster Facilitation Society, and serves on the board of BC WorkInfoNet Society.

Vice President: Jim Cooke (Capilano)
Jim Cooke is Dean of Student Services and Foundation Programs at Capilano College. He has been active in both provincial and national forums concerning post-secondary education. He currently chairs both the Senior Educational Service Officers committee of B.C. and the Committee developing a new institutional evaluation framework for B.C.'s university colleges, colleges and institutes.

Secretary: Betty Knight (East Kootenay)
Betty is the family literacy coordinator in the Invermere area. She works closely with four other community coordinators and the regional coordinator, as a member of the East Kootenay Council for Family Literacy, to support the continued development of family literacy initiatives in the region.

Treasurer: Debbie DeMare (Cariboo)
Debbie helped establish Project Literacy Williams Lake in 1988 and assisted with the founding of Literacy BC in 1989, where she was a board member from 1990 -1994. She is currently Vice president of the Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy Society and the Training Specialist at University College of the Cariboo, Williams Lake.

Learner Rep: Ellen Szita (Camosun)
Ellen has been on the Board representing Camosun for the past two years and also served as a learner rep on the Adult Literacy Cost Shared External Review Committee. She is our representative to the Learners Action Network (LAN) of the Movement for Canadian Literacy.

Directors

Vicki Grieve (Fraser Valley)
Vicki's work in the literacy field includes teaching in school, college, community and prison settings. She has coordinated several volunteer tutor programs, from the school-based Read to Me program to a tutor program in a maximum security prison. Vicki is a founding member of the Chilliwack Family Literacy Council, and was the adult instructor in the Families in Motion program for two years.

Kate Nonesuch (Malaspina)
Kate has been teaching literacy for the past 15 years, mostly at Malaspina University -College in Duncan. She is the editor of *Making Connections: Literacy and EAL Curriculum from a Feminist*

Meet the new Board for 2001/02...

Perspective and the co-author of five fundamental science teaching workbooks. Kate has also given workshops around B.C. on her never-fail method for teaching writing.

Bill Graham (New Caledonia)
Married with six children, Bill has taught at CNC Burns Lake for 15 years. He is the author of a series of literacy readers, "Tales of Northern BC," the "In This Country" story collection, and a teaching guide, "Models for Writing." Bill's focus is on encouraging his students to write and publish their own work.

Pat Herbert (North Island)
After retiring early from work with the Yukon Government, Pat and her husband moved from Whitehorse, after 25 years, to the Comox Valley. Pat has been Executive Director of the Comox Transition Society, and a volunteer with the Comox Valley Family Services Society and the Community Adult Learning and Literacy Society (C.A.L.L.S.)

Dave Manahan (Northwest)
Dave moved to Houston in 1976 where he has worked for a mill, both as a union employee and two years in management. Dave joined Project Literacy Houston in 1988, and recently was voted president of Houston Link to Learning.

Kimberly DuBuque (Northern Lights)
Kimberly has been President of the Fort St. John Literacy Society for two years. She is also a learner and a founding member of True Success, a family literacy program in which she is currently participating.

Leslie Kiehlbauch (Okanagan)
Leslie is currently the Volunteer Literacy Coordinator at Okanagan University College, Salmon Arm where she coordinates the Family Literacy project and has taught ABE and Adult Special Education. Leslie has also been an ESL instructor and the Learning Skills Coordinator for the Salmon Arm campus.

Brenda Smith (Selkirk)
Brenda has been involved in family literacy activities in the Castlegar area for the last three years. She is an active member of the West Kootenays involved in various aspects of literacy and community development. Since 1993, Brenda has been Manager for Co-op Education at Selkirk College, Castlegar.

Barbara McBride (Ex-officio)
Barbara is responsible for the administration of the PACE Bursary Fund (inherited from the now dissolved PACE organization). She started her career as an elementary school teacher before moving into adult education and was a program administrator in adult education for 17 years for the North Vancouver School District.

Bonnie Sloat (Member at large)
To improve her skills and job opportunities, Bonnie enrolled in the United Food and Commercial Workers cook literacy training program in 1997. In fall 2000 she returned to school as an ABE student at Kwantlen University College, Langley. A member of the Board since 1999, Bonnie has four children and three grandchildren.

Betty Carter (Member at large)
In 1997, Betty began attending Vancouver Community College in order to improve her literacy skills. At VCC, Betty took a very active role in student politics and was chair of the King Edward Student Association and student representative on the Board of Governors. She has been on the Board since 1999.

Look what's New

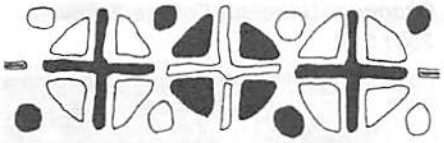
Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

Letters Home

by Betsy Alkenbrack, with contributions by Gillian Attwood and Suzanne Smythe. Compiled and edited by Sandy Middleton.



A sample graphic illustration from Letters Home. *"Litema" patterns are a form of art carved or set in stone on the floor or wall soil-plaster of Basotho houses. This traditional art form is used by Bosetho women to beautify their homes.*

These letters describe life, literacy and community development in post-apartheid South Africa, where Betsy Alkenbrack, a Canadian literacy practitioner lived and worked for 11 years.

The letters were written over a period of a year and sent electronically to literacy practitioners on ***e-northwest***, a literacy electronic network and conferencing service for the western provinces and territories.

The letters feature rich stories and descriptions of literacy work and learners lives in diverse settings in Southern Africa. These include rural villages, a women's prison in Johannesburg, workplace literacy in the mines surrounding Johannesburg, ESL programs in Soweto, and community development initiatives in Lesotho. The letters also touch on literacy materials, national standards for literacy, teacher certification and program evaluation.

Letters Home is available on loan from our resource centre and free copies are available on request from Literacy BC.

Naming the Magic: Non-Academic Outcomes in Basic Literacy.

Evelyn Battell, Malsapina University-College, 2001. BC literacy cost-shared project (CSP).

"*Every literacy instructor has seen them; we all deal with them, hope for them and expect them.*" Instructor Evelyn Battell calls it "the magic" — the non-academic outcomes (NAO's) that have occurred since literacy students began coming to class. "*Students change their bearing, their walk: they hold their heads higher and smile more readily…They talk to their kids about school and homework. They look forward to reading or doing math, they read to their kids, they present ideas and speak up for themselves at home with spouses and parents…*"

When a group of basic literacy instructors with a common interest in NAO's met at the Victoria Outcomes Conference in 1999, they drafted six techniques for documenting NAO's and followed this up by field-testing them with literacy instructors, tutors and tutor coordinators in the field. "Magic" describes the techniques and field testing, and documents what the practitioners learned in the process about the techniques, the testing and self-reflection.

The six techniques, in brief, are based on Multimedia; Journals, Goal Setting, Anecdotal Reporting/End-of-Term Reports, and Questions for Developing Awareness.

Each technique is described by one or more participating instructors who give suggestions for helping learners through key steps and questions. For example, *Goal Setting by Learners* suggests: "*You and the learners will, among other things, choose goals to be evaluated, decide how to reach the goals, establish the time frame for the change, and determine to whom and how to report the change. When the steps in this technique have been completed and the questions answered, the learners will see any report that might be written and authorize the use of any information coming from the goal-setting exercise.*"

Fieldtester/Instructor Paula Davies, explains the rationale for "Naming the Magic." "Often funders, tutors and learners themselves measure progress

Look what's New on our shelves...

Resources

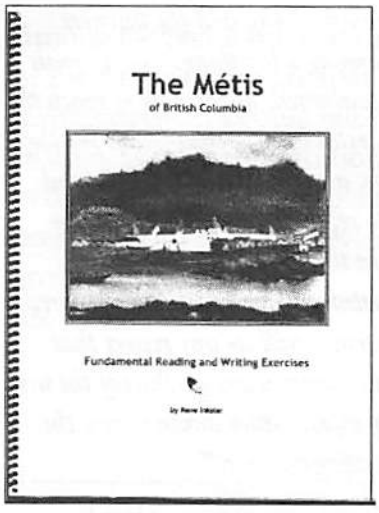
Resources

only in terms of grade levels or test scores. We hope these techniques will provide a language for the field to talk about progress in other areas ... to look for and value progress outside the traditional categories."

The report identifies six recommendations for more study.

The report can be viewed in full on the C2T2 website at: www.c2t2.ca/curric/abe/magic.pdf

The Metis of British Columbia with Fundamental Reading and Writing Exercises.
Rene Inskster, for the Mission Literacy Association and the OLA. 2001 CSP.



In her introduction, Rene says, "This book came to be written because little is known about British Columbia Metis ... and to honour contributions the B.C. or western Metis have made to the province."

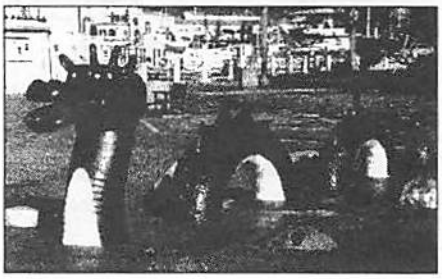
The stories, colour photos, maps and drawings in this 120-page book create a wide-ranging representation of Metis history from the early white fur trading days to snapshots of today's culture. Not all stories are at the fundamental level but are presented as close as possible.

In, "The Metis in B.C. History", we discover that dozens of BC settlements were started by Metis, among them Chetwynd, Fort Nelson, Merritt, Fort Nanaimo, Fort Langley, and Maple Ridge/Yale.

In, "Stories about Metis We Know Today," readers are introduced to the Metis concept of family ties. "The words aunt, uncle and grandparent are not used the same way Europeans use them: aunts and uncles of the children are the same as the aunts and uncles of the parents. All aunts and uncles are called 'Auntie' and 'Uncle.' Parents work for the families and allow the aunts, uncles and grandparents to raise their children."

The Metis culture of adoption, religion, and residential schools in are also examined.

Okanagan History Vignettes: Readings for Adult Literacy Students. Student Exercises and Answer Keys.
Ruth Chambers and Jan Gattrell, Okanagan University College, Kelowna. 2001 CSP.



A full-colour satellite map of Okanagan Lake and surrounding mountains and valleys is the eye-catching cover of this resource. The book is loaded with facts, photos, maps and illustrations to engage new adult readers in the history of the valley. Included are vignettes on rail and water transportation, orchard farming and some of the Okanagan "characters" who settled in the area. The material is clearly presented in an easy to read, double-spaced format.

The vignettes include:

- A history of The Kettle Valley railway, a 530 kilometre stretch of track completed in 1916 that carried passengers and freight between the coast and the Kootenays for over 40 years
- Stories of the steamboats that made Okanagan Lake a

commercial highway from 1892 to 1936.
- Ogopogo — the legendary lake monster and the Okanagan's most famous resident.

The binder-style student workbook includes approximately 25-30 pages of writing, spelling, comprehension and vocabulary exercises for each vignette. One innovative feature is the crossword puzzles designed to test comprehension — students do the crossword by finding answers to the clues in each vignette. Some exercises include map work and research.

This resource was created with input from various archives and museums in the Okanagan.

Learning Our Way: Women, Computers and Literacy.

Tracey Mollins, St. Christopher House Adult Literacy Program, Toronto, 2001.

Do women resist technology longer than men do? Do women want to learn different things about computers than men? What kind of computer course would women like?

A women's computer class posed these questions, then conducted research and a classroom survey to determine their own needs. This booklet is the story of how the women went about planning and designing their program based on what they found out. They wrote this book for "people in literacy programs who want to use computers to learn how to read, write and do math" and "people who want a women-positive curriculum." One learner who participated writes of her course: "I feel more encouraged when I use the computer. It is the greatest invention in the world... I feel like a million dollars when I use it. It helps you to learn things better than a typewriter. You make mistakes and you keep learning. I like spelling, using the mouse and typing stories."

The book is written using clear language and design principles.

Riding the Technology Wave.

Experiences of adult literacy students and teachers in Ontario. Canadian Council on Social Development. 2000.

This project examined the extent to which adult literacy students and teachers use computer technologies and how useful computer-assisted instruction is for learning to read, write and do math. The results are summarized in 28 clearly laid-out "reader-friendly" pages, using graphs and charts. The report found that computer-assisted instruction offers new ways of learning and provides new skills in the process. 61 per cent of students agreed that computers "make learning more fun." 48 per cent said that computers would make finding a job easier.

Literacy and Health Promotion: Four Case Studies.

Heart Health Nova Scotia, 2001.

This resource explores the link between literacy levels and health promotion. It documents a 36-week project that worked with

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We have copies to give away ....

A Guide for Tutoring Adult Literacy Students. Adult Basic Education. Joyce Cameron, 1988, Revised edition, 2000.

Literacy-Based Supports for Young Adults with FAS/FAE. Margaret Raymond and Joe Belanger. CSP 2000 (reprinted).

Look what's New on our shelves...

Resources

four learners whose low literacy skills presented many challenges, particularly in the area of health.

The project entailed matching four pairs of learner-tutors who each chose a health issue to research and write about. The experience of being involved in the project was meant to improve reading, writing, research, organizational, critical thinking and public speaking skills. As a result of the project, learners who were limited in their ability to access and understand information on health issues, acquired some of the skills they needed. "Each learner felt that it would be easier to ask good questions as a result of being involved in this work."

Among the recommendations of the project team are that learner networks could raise awareness of health promotion in their communities by making presentations to local service groups and health care providers

A plain language guide, "It's Your Health, a Guide for Tutors and Adult Learners," is included in the report's extensive appendices.

Learning to Think, Learning to Learn: What the Science of Thinking and Learning Has to Offer Adult Education.

National Institute for Literacy, U.S. 2000.

The book is made up of 18 fact sheets based on research into thinking and learning. Each topical fact sheet poses questions for teacher reflection, a summary of ideas and evidence on the topic, and a set of short lesson ideas.

Topics include, Memory and Learning, How Thinking Develops, and What Does Good Thinking Look Like? There are extensive appendices, an annotated bibliography, and short articles summarizing the fact sheets.

The intended audience for this book is adult educators who teach or tutor reading in GED-level classrooms. It may also be useful to ABE math, reading and writing teachers, job training and ESL instructors.

Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000 series: ESL for Literacy Learners.

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks, Ottawa. Manitoba Labour and Immigation and the National Literacy Secretariat.

A Canadian Language Benchmark is a description of a person's ability to use the English language to accomplish a set of tasks.

ESL Literacy Benchmarks lay out the progression of reading, writing and numeracy skills for ESL adults who have little or no literacy skills in their first language. The benchmarks are descriptions of what ESL literacy students are able to do at various stages of their development.

The Benchmarks are primarily intended to help instructors determine the developmental level of their students and design appropriate teaching and learning activities. They are not a curriculum or assessment tool, although teachers can use them to place students in appropriate classes ,set learning objectives, and prepare ESL literacy resources.

The Learning Edge. **A new on-line resource found at:** www.thewclc.ca/edge/

The Learning Edge is an interactive, on-line newspaper for adult literacy students from the Wellington County Learning Centre in Arthur, Ontario. Stories are plainly written and feature on-line audio and highlighted text. Check out the website for a guided tour.

Report from the Cariboo...

by Debbie DeMare, Literacy BC Board Member, Training Specialist at the University College of the Cariboo, Williams Lake and President of the Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy.

The Three "Reds" – Creating a Learning Community

This spring at a Literacy BC board meeting I was shaken out of my complacency as a college administrator and volunteer literacy advocate. Three overheads of B.C. Stats were presented by Dr. Ron Faris: socio-economic, educational and health indicators using maps of BC. with each region marked in a different colour. Red was the colour for the lowest levels in B.C. The socio-economic overhead went up – and a big splotch of red coloured the Cariboo Chilcotin. Next came the health overhead, and again there we were, the Cariboo, bright and red. Lastly, the education overhead, and you guessed it, red! I felt shock, embarrassment, concern. Here we were one of two regions in B.C. to be "red" on all three maps.

"The three reds" told me the situation in the Cariboo-Chilcotin is critical and that to make a significant advances, a community-wide strategy will need to be adopted. Learning is an investment in our future as a community and if we don't make that investment, our most precious resource, our people, will not be able to contribute to making our community healthy and economically vibrant. Could Williams Lake intentionally commit to becoming a "learning community" together with a vision of mobilizing all our learning resources (formal and otherwise) to work together to systematically invest in learning in all sectors of our community?

With this question in mind, in the late fall Mayor Ivan Bonnell and our City Council took the step to becoming proactive leaders in the revitalization of our economic and social fabric by recommending the Mayor strike a Task Force on Learning. The people of the Cariboo-Chilcotin are self reliant and proactive people who are no strangers to cross-sectoral stakeholder driven responses to complex issues. The Task Force on Learning will be formed early in 2002 – the mission will be a plan for creating a Learning Community.

Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL) was formed in 1997 as an umbrella organization to oversee locally developed literacy projects and to raise literacy issues in the community and region. The CCPL consists of a small group of volunteers from community service groups, educational institutions, businesses and individuals who have an interest in literacy.

The Society's mission is to "promote community literacy through awareness and understanding by initiating and supporting learning opportunities." Its longterm goal is to foster literacy and learning as a community value to improve the well being of our community. Members represent Cariboo College, the Rotary Club, the Cariboo Mental Health Association and the Learning Disabilities Society, as well as interested individuals from business and education.

Among its achievements the CCPL has:

- created the Partnership in Learning (PAL) program to provide one-on-one adult tutoring and tutor training in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House
- successfully delivered a series of Family Literacy workshops in eight rural communities in partnership with the Cariboo

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In Memoriam

Recently, the literacy and ABE communities lost two respected colleagues.

Reg McNamara was an instructor at the University College of the Cariboo. His colleagues at UCC paid tribute to Reg in the ABEABC journal, *Groundwork*. "Reg took many roles in college and community over the years. He was instructor and Department Chair in the areas of career education and preparation. He and his colleagues developed innovative approaches and programs that addressed the often difficult and misunderstood needs of fundamental adult basic education.....Reg left a mark on the students he served and respected." Reg died early in August 2001.

Christina Patterson taught at the Reading and Writing Centre of Malaspina University-College in Duncan. She was also a Regional Literacy Coordinator for the Malaspina region and a member of the Literacy Materials Bulletin Committee.

Christina is remembered by her colleagues for her warmth, vibrancy, positive energy, and enthusiasm for her students and her work. Christina once wrote, "I read somewhere that if you do what you love, the world will unfold for you. Good thing I'm doing what I love."

Christina died on August 27, 2001. She is deeply missed by her friends, family, colleagues, and students.

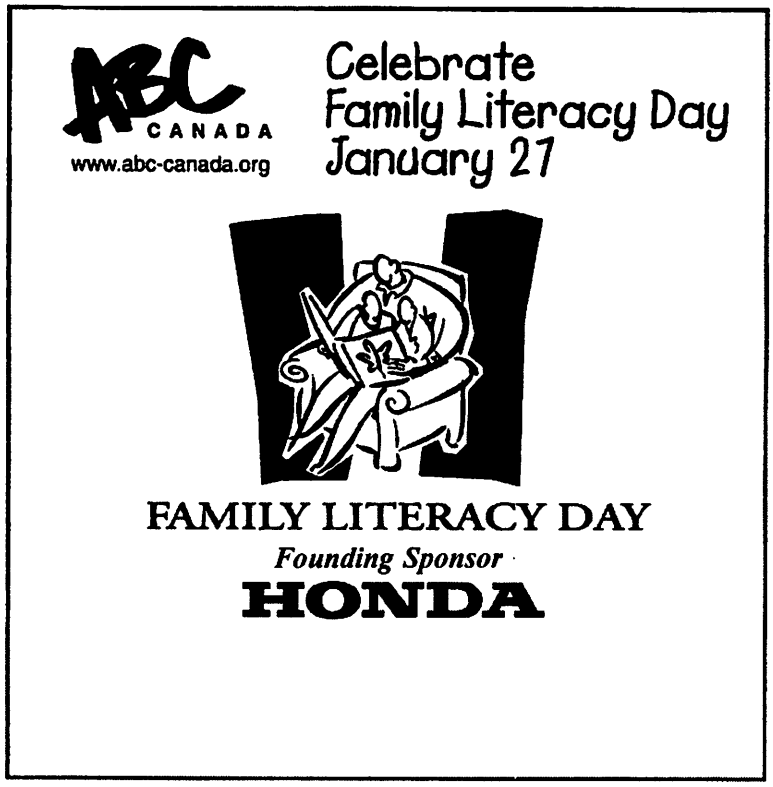
Report from the Cariboo...

Regional Library and initiated family learning projects in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House

- Awarded Health Canada Community Action Program for Children funding to develop and promote family literacy expertise and programs in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House
- embarked on extensive awareness raising public relations campaigns during Literacy Month

The members of the CCPL have been tireless in promoting the cause of literacy in this community and region. They have selflessly volunteered their time and energies to a cause that will in the long run make this a healthier community.

Mark your calendars for January 27, 2002 !



Once again, Literacy BC and our partners will launch the fourth annual **National Family Literacy Day/ Week Campaign** to celebrate the many successes and promote awareness of the value of family literacy.

National Family Literacy Day on January 27 is celebrated in communities across the country to spotlight the fact that learning is a family affair.

In BC, we will kick off the Week with another **"Breakfast of Champions"** at the Vancouver Public Library, a very special occasion that brings together representatives from government, schools, libraries, business and key community and family organizations. The Week will be filled with workshops, presentations and guest speakers and other events — contact Jean Rasmussen at Literacy BC in January for the latest updated information.

The B.C. family literacy field will again receive a package of promotional materials from ABC CANADA to help support events in local communities. This year, materials include posters, buttons, bookmarks, stickers, fact sheets, temporary tattoos, and a Family Literacy Day Toolkit.

A very limited supply of these materials may be available for purchasing by schools and libraries. Organizations can view the materials and find ordering information on the ABC CANADA website at: www.abc-canada.org/family_literacy_day/fld.asp

Walks for Literacy

An Update on a few of the events this year...

In the Cariboo ...

At the **Shuswap Learning Centre** in **Chase**, the **Laubach Council** held a Walk on International Literacy Day, September 8th to attract new students for the area's trained tutors.

The **Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy** celebrated Literacy Month throughout September, with its second annual Walk in **Williams Lake** on September 29, and "Literacy in the Street," a day of family literacy activities, and "Literacy on Stage" featuring presentations by adult learners, poetry recitations, information about literacy resources and music.

On the Island ...

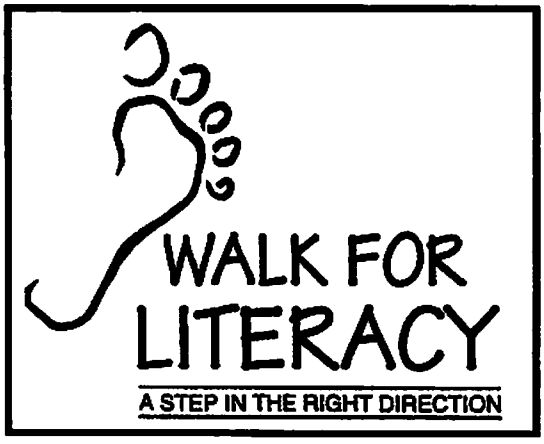
Project Literacy Victoria celebrated September 8 with a Walk for Literacy and Books for Kids event. The Walk collected $95 and 292 children's books to distribute among local schools.

In the Fraser Valley ...

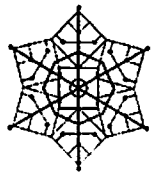
Fraser Valley Regional Literacy Coordinator **Julia Dodge** sends this news about the **Abbotsford Literacy Association's** "Big Day" on September 8.

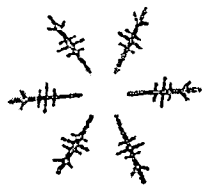
"The **ALA** hosted their celebration at the Clearbrook Library in **Abbotsford**. With publicity from the local press, libraries, schools & UCFV, we received over 1200 people throughout the day. The event was officially opened by Abbotsford Mayor George Ferguson, who along with RCMP Fire & Rescue personnel, local authors, adult learners and many community volunteers read stories to adults & children throughout the day, in a variety of languages.

... Volunteers helped children make books, bookmarks and hats at the craft tables. Other volunteers from the local community & high school worked very hard all day. I manned the reception table where I greeted dignitaries and the press, organized the volunteer readers, answered questions, showed videos, provided information about available literacy programs & volunteer opportunities, the **ALA**, and **Literacy BC**. The day ended with a draw for door prizes of donated books, stationary sets and local artwork."



A Message from Literacy BC





I am delighted to have this opportunity to wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons. We hope for moments of peace during this magical time to help manage our fears as we prepare for a New Year of global kindness and understanding. The last few lines of one of my favourite carols remind us to have faith in each other and ourselves:

"Then rang the bells more loud and deep,
God is not dead nor does He sleep.
And might shall fail and right prevail
For peace on earth, good will to men."

Here's to a new beginning in 2002.
The very best to you and your loved ones.

Vicki Austad,
President,
Literacy BC

And from our colleagues...

Cheers from Project Literacy West Kootenay! Christmas greetings to you from all the members of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy! ***Jennifer Cliff-Marks :)***

"Season's Greetings of peace and love"
Community Adult Literacy and Learning Society, Courtenay

Happy Holidays to Everyone!
Pat Powell , Valemount Learning Centre

Seasons Greetings to everyone working in the field of literacy in B.C.
Sue Carson, Sonja Slana and Christine Ball wish you and yours all the best for 2002 Community Readers & Writers Program in Terrace.

Season's Greetings from all of us here in the frozen North—
Tanya, Melanie and the "CHOOSE gang."
Fort St. John Literacy Society and CHOOSE Success Family Literacy Program

Have a literally wonderful Christmas! Best Wishes from the Fraser Valley Regional Literacy Committee
Julia Dodge, Regional Literacy Coordinator

At this time of year, I like to remember that "if you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy" (an Allan Fotheringham quote). We are truly blessed!
Paul Gallagher, Past President

- Supporting Learners
- Providing Consultation, Referral, and Resources
- Raising Public Awareness
- Coordinating Regional Literacy Networks
- Providing Training and Professional Development
- Influencing Public Policy
- Building Partnerships

Donor Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals who have donated $100 or more to Literacy BC:

Breen Egan • John Grieve • Audrey Thomas • Manulife
The Hydrecs Fund

And thank you to those who have contributed up to $100:

Cynthia Onstad • David Griffiths • Debbie DeMare • Barbara McBride
Employees of Hewitt Associates • Carla Bullinger • Melanie Austin
Mia Mabantha

THANK YOU

At a recent event for the book industry, ***Raincoast*** *and the* ***Association of Book Publishers of B.C*** *(ABPBC) raised significant donations for Literacy BC.*

We are very grateful to ***Raincoast Books*** *for their efforts in encouraging a total of $2500 in donations from the following:*

Distican • Harper Collins • Random House • Penguin Books • Orca Books • University of Calgary Press • CDG Books.

And thank you to ***The Association of Book Publishers of BC (ABEABC)*** *for more than $1267 they raised at the Silent Auction they organized. This generous support from the book industry is encouraging and very much appreciated.*

LiteracyBC
601-510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1L8
Telephone: **604-684-0624**
Toll free in BC: **1-800-663-1293**
Fax: **604-684-8520**
e-mail: info@literacy.bc.ca
www.literacy.bc.ca

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